

**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH  
SESSION**

**of the**

**VERNON FREE WILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**held with**

**BELK FREE WILL BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

**1986 Minutes**

OFFICERS FOR 1986

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH SESSION

MODERATOR.....

REV. EDWARD PUCKETT

ASSISTANT MODERATOR.....

REV. M. H. HOLLIS

CLERK.....

BRO. RAPHAEL YERBY

The next session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Decatur on Saturday, March 14, 1987. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and services will begin at 10:00 a.m. The annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 17, 1987.

OFFICERS FOR 1987

MODERATOR.....

REV. M. H. HOLLIS

P. O. Box 183, Vernon, Alabama 35592

Telephone.....695-7736

ASSISTANT MODERATOR.....

REV. BILLY WILSON

P. O. Box 31, Belk, Alabama 35545

Telephone.....932-3144

CLERK.....

BRO. RAPHAEL YERBY

232 - 19th Street, N.W., Fayette, Alabama 35555

Telephone.....932-4595

## PROCEEDINGS

The one hundred and sixth session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Belk Free Will Baptist Church on October 18, 1986. Rev. Edward Puckett served as moderator, Rev. M.H. Hollis served as assistant moderator, and Bro. Raphael Yerby served as clerk.

The meeting opened with a song, "Love Lifted Me," directed by Rev. Don Holland. The opening prayer was by Rev. L. B. Nix.

We were welcomed to the Belk Free Will Baptist Church by the host pastor, Rev. Billy Wilson. The response was given by Bro. Pascal Yerby of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon. We had two songs, "My Saviors' Love," and "I Am Resolved," directed by Bro. Don Holland.

The morning devotion was brought by Rev. M. H. Hollis, pastor of the Springfield Free Will Baptist Church. He used Romans 8:37 as his scripture text. His subject was "Overcomers." Prayer was by the speaker.

We had another song, "There Is Power In The Blood," directed by Rev. Don Holland.

The one hundred and sixth session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was called to order by the clerk, Bro. Raphael Yerby.

The moderator welcomed everyone to this session of the association. He used Psalms 133:1 as his scripture in his opening message to the association. Prayer was by the speaker.

We had a roll call of the delegates by the clerk. We had a motion, second and vote carried to seat the delegates and to proceed with the business of the association.

The report of the Committee on Committees was given by Rev. Jerry Smith, chairman. The various committees were appointed from this report at the semi-annual meeting in March.

The moderator called for petitionary letters. None were received.

We had a report of the Digest Committee by Bro. Zadus Turner, Jr., chairman of the committee. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The moderator recognized visiting brethren and invited them to seat with us during this session of the association. Those present were: Rev. Richard Hendrix of the Jasper Church, Rev. Ambers Aldridge of the Jasper Association, Rev. Richard Cordell, pastor of the Guin Church and Dr. Cox of Raleigh, North Carolina.

We had a report of the Board of Christian Education by Rev. Dennis Kizzire. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

We had a report of the Vernon District Woman's Auxiliary by Sister Elwanda Oakes, District President. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

The moderator gave Rev. Richard Hendrix, Alabama State Missionary, a few minutes to report on his work in Alabama and his plan to go to Huntsville, Alabama as a Home Missionary to start a church there.

The moderator appointed a Committee on Committees for 1987. (See list)

We had a song, "He Keeps Me Singing," directed by Rev. Don Holland.

We were dismissed by the moderator for a short recess and time of fellowship.

After recess we had a song, "The Solid Rock," directed by Bro. Holland. Prayer was by Rev. Richard Cordell.

We had a report at this time on the plans for the 1987 Missionary Conference by Rev. Richard Cordell.

We received a love offering to help pay for the expense of our guest speaker. The offeratory prayer was by Rev. Dennis Kizzire.

The keynote message was brought at 11:00 a.m. by our guest speaker, Dr. Randy Cox, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Raleigh, North Carolina. His subject was "Fishers of Men," and his scripture text was Mark 1:17, Matthew 4:18-20 and I Corinthians 1:26-28. Prayer was by the speaker.

After a very challenging message, we had a song of invitation, "Have Thine Own Way Lord," directed by Bro. Holland.

We were dismissed for the noon hour. The dismissal prayer and the blessing of the food was by Rev. Billy Wilson.

### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

After a delicious lunch and the noon hour of fellowship, we convened back at 1:00 p.m. to finish the business of the association.

We had a song, "Victory in Jesus," directed by Bro. Don Holland. Prayer was by Rev. Fred Graham. We then enjoyed a special in song, "What A Day That Will Be," rendered by Rev. Dickie Dees, pastor of Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

We had a report of the Credential Committee by Bro. Bobby Joe Black. All items of the report were accepted by the body except one item. This one item was tabled until the March meeting of the association.

Next, we had an ordination service. Bro. Jeff Cole of the Beaverton Free Will Baptist Church was ordained to preach the gospel. The ordination message and charge was by Rev. Jerry Smith, pastor of Free Will Chapel Church. He used Mark 3:14, II Timothy 2:15 and 4:2-5 and I Corinthians 1:18-21 as his charge. The ordination prayer was by Rev. Edward Puckett. After the ordination prayer and the laying on of hands, the congregation was invited to come by and give Bro. Cole the right hand of Christian fellowship.

We were treated to another special in song, "Master Of The Sea,"



rendered by Sisters Linda Barnes and Alisa Barnes.

The afternoon devotion was brought by Rev. Ron Scott, pastor of Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. He used Romans 14:17 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker.

We had a report of the Sunday School and C.T.S. Committee by Bro. Rodney Yerby, chairman. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

We had a report of the Finance Committee by Bro. Harold Goode, chairman. We had a motion, a second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

We had a report of the Youth Camp Board of Directors by Rev. Dennis Kizzire. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report.

We had a report of the Appreciation Committee by Bro. Elmer Motes, chairman. We had a motion, second and vote carried to accept the report and discharge the committee.

We had a report of the Temperance Committee by Sister Glenda Wilson, chairperson. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The Deceased Members Committee report was given by Sister Linda Barnes, chairperson. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report and stand and sing "Precious Memories," and have prayer in memory of these loved ones. After a moment of silent prayer, we were led in prayer by Bro. Dewey Jordan.

At this time the moderator appointed Bro. Lennie Ray Dubose to serve a five (5) year term on the Credential Committee.

The moderator called for the election of one member to serve a five (5) year term on the Board of Christian Education. Rev. Don Holland was elected to serve on this board.

Next, we elected one member to serve a three (3) year term on the Youth Camp Board of Directors. Bro. Lewis Hindman was elected to serve on this board.

The moderator appointed a committee to plan the Associational Thanksgiving Service and to secure the speaker for the service. Those appointed were Rev. M. H. Hollis, Rev. Ron Scott and Rev. Don Holland. The service will be held at Belk Free Will Baptist Church on Tuesday night, November 25, 1986 at 7:00 p.m.

Delegates to the Alabama State Association were appointed next. Those appointed were:

Bro. Robert Carter  
Sister Sandra Carter  
Sister Darlene Carter

Bro. Clyde Motes  
Sister Eldridge Motes  
Sister Elwanda Oakes

The moderator called for the election of officers of the association for the next year. First the floor was opened for nominations for

moderator of the association. Rev. Edward Puckett and Rev. M. H. Hollis were nominated. Rev. Puckett declined the nomination because the constitution did not permit him to serve another year. Rev. M. H. Hollis was the only other nominee and was elected by acclamation to serve as moderator.

Nomination was opened for assistant moderator. Rev. Billy Wilson was the only nominee and was elected by acclamation to serve as assistant moderator.

Nomination for clerk was opened next. Bro. Raphael Yerby was the only nominee and was elected by acclamation to serve as clerk.

A place was chosen for the next two (2) meetings of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Decatur requested the March meeting. The body voted to hold the March meeting at the Decatur Church. This meeting will be on Saturday, March 14, 1987. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. and services will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church requested the annual meeting in October. The body voted to hold the annual association meeting at the Piney Grove Church. The meeting will be on Saturday, October 17, 1987 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

We had a motion from the floor by Rev. Dickie Dees, for all our churches to band together and have a special time of prayer at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 19, 1986, for Rev. Jim Doherty, pastor of the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church.

We were dismissed in prayer by Rev. David Hayes, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon. The meeting was adjourned.

The semi-annual meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held on March 15, 1986 with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent. We had a good attendance everyone seemed to enjoy the meeting. Rev. Edward Puckett, the moderator, presided over the meeting. The meeting opened with a song, "I Want To Know More," directed by Rev. Don Holland. The opening prayer was by Rev. Milton Gann.

We were welcomed by the moderator, Rev. Edward Puckett, using Acts 1:14 as his scripture.

We had two more songs, "Heaven's Jubilee" and "Where The Soul Never Dies," directed by Rev. Don Holland.

The morning devotion was brought by Bro. Richard Johnson of the Springfield Free Will Baptist Church. He used Philippians 2:5-8 as his scripture. Prayer was by the speaker.

We had another song, "Glad Reunion Day," directed by Bro. Holland.

We had a short business session. In the business, we had a roll call of the delegates and seated the delegates for business. We had a report of the Committee on Committees by Rev. Jerry Smith, chairman, and the

various committees were appointed to make their report to the annual meeting in October.

At this time we had two more congregation songs, "I Feel Like Traveling On" and "I Have Somebody With Me," directed by Bro. Holland.

We enjoyed a special in song, "He Grew The Tree," by Sister Mattie Lou Crossley.

The moderator recognized all Sunday School teachers of the association that were present and all deacons and all preachers that were present and thanked them for the work they were doing in the various churches.

We had two more congregation songs, "Old Time Power" and "Living By Faith," directed by Bro. Don Holland.

We voted to set a time to begin the service of the spring meeting. We voted to begin registration at 9:30 a.m. and begin the service at 10:00 a.m.

We were treated to another special in song, "When He Was On The Cross, I Was On His Mind," by Sister Debrah Dees of the Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

The 11:00 a.m. message was brought by Rev. David Hayes, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon. His subject was "Are You a Sea of Gallilee or Are You a Dead Sea?" He used II Corinthians 9:6-7 and Malachi 3:10 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker. After a very good message, we all enjoyed a delicious lunch at the noon hour, served by the Sulligent church. The dismissal and blessing on the food was by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES AS LISTED

BEAVERTON - Sisters Emma Harris, Diana Cole, Brothers Russell Cole and Bobby Dykes.

BELK - Sisters Sue Yerby, Glenda Wilson, Mamie Gilpin, Ora Mae Overton and Brother Laren Williams.

COOPER - Sisters Lena Johnson, Melba Kizzire, Flora Warren, Gennell Gann, Lena Mae Rye, Brothers Jimmy Sullins and Clinton Warren.

DAVIS CHAPEL - Sisters Betty Gray, Jessemer Nelson, Lorene Pike and Dora Lee Pennington.

DECATUR - Brothers Rodney Yerby, Harold Goode, Jim Bell, Sisters Mary Yerby, Sula Gann, and Betty Goode.

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sisters Polly Easter, Mary Wise, Sheila Irvin and Mary Easter.



**FREE WILL CHAPEL** - Brothers Bill Brown, Otto Williams, W. G. Stanford, Wallace Harris, John Smith, Sisters Sandra Smith and Margarette Brown.

**FRIENDSHIP** - Sisters Lura Moore and Myrtle Reynolds.

**LIBERTY** - Brothers Bill Lanier, Barksdale Higgins, Sisters Jo Nina Lanier, Ruby Nell Higgins, Eula Mae Dubose, Maggie Lois Dubose, and Janice Sorrells.

**LOVE JOY** - Sisters Linda Barnes, Alisa Barnes, Theresa Taggart, Laura Carter, and Brother J. R. Coley..

**MT. HARMONY** - Sisters Mildred Perkins, Nina Otts, Mattie Johnson, Kay Steedley and Brother Leonard Corbett.

**MT. PLEASANT** - Sisters Pearlie Allen, Mary Parker and Michelle Merchant.

**MT. WILLING** - Brothers Lucion Flynn, Sammy Lee Roberts and Sisters Margie Lee and Audra Flynn.

**PINEY GROVE** - Brothers Clyde Weeks, Doug Stripling, Greg Stocks, Sisters Carol Barnes, Gera Mae Bobo and Goldie Dykes.

**SPRINGFIELD** - Sisters Burma Jordan, Dean Rushing, Joyce Gibson, Dorthy Hollis and Brother Bryan Williams.

**SULLIGENT** - Sisters Polly Mixon, Kitty Taylor, Darlene Carter, Sandra Carter, Alice Ann Carruth and Brother Robert Carter.

**TAYLOR SPRINGS** - Brother J. C. Young, Sisters Eunice Perkins, and Earleen Sorrells.

**TUSCALOOSA** - Brother Horace Harper, Sisters Sybal Harper and Annette Beem.

**UNION CHAPEL** - Sisters Joyce Hardy, Lucille Bradford, Margine Martin, Renia Hardy, and Brother Tim Graben.

**VERNON** - Brothers Mike McDaniel, Elmer Motes, Clyde Motes, Sisters Eldridge Motes, Louise Shelnut, Ina Yerby, Frances Moore, Mildred Gilmore and Elwanda Oakes.



**GENERAL BOARD**

BEAVERTON - Emma Harris  
BELK - Dalton Gilpin  
COOPER - Jimmy Sullins  
DAVIS CHAPEL - None Listed  
DECATUR - Rodney Yerby  
DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Joe Mack Easter  
FREE WILL CHAPEL - Kenneth Tate  
FRIENDSHIP - None Listed.  
LIBERTY - Lennie R. Dubose  
LOVE JOY - Loyd Carter  
MT. HARMONY - Phil Wheeler  
MT. PLEASANT - Gary Springfield  
MT. WILLING - Lucion G. Flynn  
PINEY GROVE - Tommie Robertson  
SPRINGFIELD - Tommie Rushing  
SULLIGENT - John Q. Boyett  
TAYLOR SPRINGS - J. C. Young  
TUSCALOOSA - None Listed  
UNION CHAPEL - Jessie Yerby  
VERNON - Zadus Turner, Jr.

The following churches will elect a new member to serve a two (2) year term on the General Board of the Vernon Association and send them to the next session of the association.

Mt. Harmony  
Mt. Pleasant  
Mt. Willing  
Piney Grove  
Springfield

Sulligent  
Taylor Springs  
Tuscaloosa  
Union Chapel  
Vernon

**COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS FOR 1986**

**CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

Bro. Pascal Yerby - 1987  
Rev. Don Taggart - 1988  
Rev. Edward Puckett - 1989  
Rev. L. B. Nix - 1990  
Bro. Lennie Ray Dubose - 1991

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
C. T. S. COMMITTEE**

Bro. Rodney Yerby  
Sister Eula Mae Dubose  
Bro. Roger Rye  
Sister Polly Mixon

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Bro. Harold Goode  
Sister Earleen Sorrells  
Sister Mary Parker

**DECEASED MEMBERS  
COMMITTEE**

Sister Linda Barnes  
Bro. Robert Carter  
Bro. Clyde Weeks  
Sister Mary Wise

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

Rev. Don Taggart - 1987  
Rev. Billy Wilson - 1988  
Rev. David Hayes - 1989  
Rev. Jerry Smith - 1990  
Rev. Don Holland - 1991

**YOUTH CAMP COMMITTEE**

All pastors of the Vernon  
Association.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Rev. M. H. Hollis  
Rev. Billy Wilson  
Bro. Raphael Yerby  
Bro. Jimmy Sullins  
Bro. Joe Mack Easter  
Bro. Loyd Carter  
Bro. Zadus Turner, Jr.

**YOUTH CAMP BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

Rev. Dickie Dees - 1987  
Rev. Dennis Kizzire - 1988  
Bro. Lewis Hindman - 1989

**COMMITTEE ON  
COMMITTEES 1987**

Bro. Robert Carter  
Rev. Ron Scott  
Rev. David Hayes

**DIGEST COMMITTEE 1987**

Bro. Wallace Harris  
Bro. Zadus Turner, Jr.  
Sister Rena Graben  
Bro. Jack Bowman

**APPRECIATION COMMITTEE**

Bro. Elmer Motes  
Sister Kay Steedley  
Sister Lorene Pike

**TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE**

Sister Glenda Wilson  
Bro. Lucion Flynn  
Bro. Joe Brown

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.T.S. COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Sunday School and C.T.S. Committee submit the following report:

Our Sunday School enrollment is 1,602, with an average attendance of 1,240. We show an increase of 173 members in enrollment and a decrease of 26 members in average attendance.

Our C.T.S. enrollment is 729, with an average attendance of 557. Our C.T.S. enrollment is up by 134 and the average attendance shows an increase of 43. Only twelve (12) churches in our association have a C.T.S. program. This is unchanged from last year. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sister Eula Mae Dubose, Chairperson

### **GENERAL BOARD REPORT**

We, the General Board, met on August 25, 1986, at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon. We make the following report and recommendations:

- I. By a letter of request from the Mount Moriah Association, we voted to grant the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church a letter of good standing and recommendation to the Mount Moriah Association of Free Will Baptist. M.S.C.
- II. We voted to give the Credential Committee permission to ordain Bro. Ron Scott as a preacher of the gospel before the association meeting. M.S.C.
- III. The board voted to give the clerk permission to go ahead and send our money to the state association treasurer for the 1987 national association expenses. M.S.C.
- IV. We recommend that the association establish a Lay Committee consisting of one (1) layman from each church to work with our Youth Camp Board of Directors to raise funds and make the much needed repairs to our youth camp. M.S.C.
- V. We recommend that each church send \$100.00 to help pay the expenses for our Association Evangelism Conference, sponsored by our Board of Christian Education, to be held October 24 and 25, 1986. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Edward Puckett, Chairman

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Finance Committee wish to make the following report:

We had a balance on hand at the end of this year of \$1,025.12. We had a total of \$1,255.00 sent in by our churches as dues for this year. Our estimated expenses for this next year are \$1,250.00. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bro. Harold Goode, Chairman

**TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Temperance Committee, make the following report:  
We would like to call to your attention the following questions: Are we living too fast in this hurried world of today to abide by the biblical commands for Christians? Do we faithfully discharge our obligations in reference to scripture study, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship?

We challenge each Christian to re-evaluate your 24-hour days and get your priorities in order. Put God first on your list. We are reminded of Ecclesiastes 12:13 and 14 which says: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenda Wilson, Chairperson

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, your Credential Committee, make the following report:

From the October, 1985 association meeting we have examined two (2) men of God who ask to be ordained by our association. We met with the General Board and got this approval to ordain Bro. Ron Scott, who was called to pastor the Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, before the association meeting. The Credential Committee met at the Union Chapel Church on Sunday, September 21, 1986, at the request of Bro. Scott and held his ordination service there.

We have examined Bro. Jeff Cole of the Beaverton Free Will Baptist Church and recommend that he be ordained to preach the gospel at this session of the association. At the request of Bro. Cole, we recommend that Rev. Jerry Smith, pastor of Free Will Chapel Church, preach the ordination message and give the charge.

We had a letter of request from the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church to leave our association to join the Mount Moriah Association. We recommend they be given a letter of good standing and recommendation to the Mount Moriah Association.

We recommend that Rev. Dexter Guin be given a letter of good standing and recommendation from our association to join the Jasper Association.

We recommend a card of good standing be given to all ministers on our roll that are present today.

NOTE: All the above items were adopted by a majority vote.

We, the Credential Committee, recommend that any minister coming from another denomination and joining the Free Will Baptist and requesting membership in our association, that he surrender his



credentials from the other denominations to us and then we will give him Free Will Baptist credentials.

NOTE: This item was tabled until the March meeting due to changing the constitution. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bro. Bobby Joe Black, Chairman

### APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

We, the Appreciation Committee, make the following report:

We appreciate the fellowship, unity and work of the Lord demonstrated in this the 106th session of our meeting. We appreciate the effort put forth to make this meeting a good one.

We especially want to thank the Belk Church for the fine hospitality and the good meal which they prepared for us. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elmer Motes, Chairman

### COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, the Committee on Deceased Members make the following report:

BEAVERTON - Sister Mary Weeks

BELK - None

COOPER - Brothers Cleatus Carter, Allen Lewis and John Rye

DAVIS CHAPEL - Brothers Delbert Gray and Keith Pendley

DECATUR - Brother Forest Motes

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sisters Ruthie Lockhart and Madie Webb

FREE WILL CHAPEL - None

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Brothers Clarence Cargile and Vester Perkins, Sisters  
Susan Hester Wright and Betty Jean Hester

LOVE JOY - None

MT. HARMONY - Sister Flaudie Wheeler

MT. PLEASANT - Sister Edna Earl Funderburk

MT. WILLING - Brothers Garvin Chaffin, Eddie Berryhill, Sterlon  
Haney, Grady Crews, Sisters Lemmie Shelnut and Cora Berryhill

PINEY GROVE - Brothers Ray Gann, Franklin Bobo and Sister Faye  
Chaffin Handley

SPRINGFIELD - Brothers Mack Hollis, H. H. Johnson and Add  
Hankins

SULLIGENT - Brothers Johnny Clifton, Johnny White, Preston  
Minor, Edward (Ed) Hollis and Sister Francis Trentham

TAYLOR SPRINGS - None

**TUSCALOOSA - Brother George Hayes**

**UNION CHAPEL - Brother Davis Hopson**

**VERNON - Brother Ezra Duke and Sister Lavelle Bishop**

We recommend that we stand and have moment of silent prayer and then sing, "Precious Memories," in memory of these loved ones.  
M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sister Linda Barnes, Chairperson

### **VERNON DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY REPORT**

The Vernon District Woman's Auxiliary would like to report a good year as "co-laborers together with our Lord."

We sponsored a mission banquet January 18, 1986, at the Lamar County High School cafetorium with 150 people attending. Rev. and Mrs. James Walden, missionaries to Alabaster, Alabama, were our special guests. They, along with Rev. Bill Adkinson, missionary to Albuquerque, N.M., spoke. A love offering of \$150.00 was given to the Waldens and \$329.00 was sent to the Walden's account.

On March 29, 1986, the eighth annual convention of the Vernon District Auxiliary was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa. Rev. and Mrs. Mickey Kirkland spoke to the convention. A love offering of \$115.00 was given to the Kirklands. We rejoiced about their successful ministry at the Lighthouse Free Will Baptist Church in Montgomery.

On September 19-20, 1986, our district, along with Mt. Moriah, Jasper and North Alabama joined for our second bi-annual prayer retreat at the youth camp near Yampertown. Guest speakers were Mrs. Levy Cory, who presented a slide presentation about the Children's Home; Mrs. Jackie Peters, missionary to Ozark, Alabama and Mrs. Odessa Ledlow, who conducted a seminar on prayer. Fifty nine people attended and after expenses were paid, a love offering of \$121.50 was sent to each speaker.

Mrs. Mildred Gilmore and I represented our district at the State Auxiliary Convention in Dothan in May. We brought back our district's first award and one that we praise God for! Our district's October Missions Offering, which went to the Montgomery Land Fund, was the largest received from any district. We would like to thank members of our local churches for making this possible and encourage each member to give this year to Rev. and Mrs. Jimmy Aldridge's account during October.

Our Pre-Easter Season of Prayer offering went to Rev. and Mrs. Rick Bowling's account and totaled \$180.13.

We were saddened at the loss of two auxiliaries from our district this year. Eastside, one of our two charter auxiliaries, and Piney Grove withdrew from our fellowship. We encourage all auxiliaries in the

Vernon Association to prayerfully consider uniting with the auxiliaries from the First Free Will Baptist of Tuscaloosa, Free Will Chapel, Springfield and the First Free Will Baptist of Vernon in the Vernon District Auxiliary.

We look forward to next year. Our district will host the eight other district auxiliaries of the Alabama State Auxiliary Convention on May 2, 1987 at the Vernon Free Will Baptist Church. We will help to host the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention when it convenes in Birmingham on July 19-23, 1987. We plan to sponsor a mission banquet January 17, 1987, attend the State Prayer Retreat May 15-16, 1987, and attend the State Mission Banquet in Muscle Shoals November 7, 1986. Springfield Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary will host our next annual convention March 28, 1987. We hope to see many of you women there and that you will join us. We need your prayers and support as we serve God as "Missionary Arms" in our local churches.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elwanda Oakes, President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met on January 13, 1986 to plan the program and secure the speaker for both the spring and fall meetings of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

The committee voted to invite Rev. Randy Cox to be our guest speaker at the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the annual meeting in October. We also voted to ask Rev. M. H. Hollis to have the morning devotion and Rev. Ron Scott to have the afternoon devotion. We asked Rev. Don Holland to be in charge of the singing for the day. We voted to receive a love offering for the guest speaker and pay him \$200.00 plus the offering.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Edward Puckett, Chairman

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT

STATISTICS:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Number of Ordained Ministers.....                 | 29    |
| Number of Licensed Ministers.....                 | 3     |
| Number of Ordained Deacons.....                   | 80    |
| Full Time Pastors.....                            | 11    |
| Part Time Pastors.....                            | 9     |
| Total Membership.....                             | 2,766 |
| Number Baptisms.....                              | 60    |
| New Members Received.....                         | 112   |
| Members Lost (deceased 35, other reasons 30)..... | 65    |
| Sunday School Enrollment.....                     | 1,629 |



|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Sunday School Average Attendance ..... | 1,260 |
| C.T.S. Enrollment .....                | 707   |
| C.T.S. Average Attendance .....        | 535   |
| Churches Without C.T.S. ....           | 10    |
| Masters Men Enrollment .....           | 84    |
| Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment .....     | 161   |
| All 20 member churches reported        |       |

Respectfully submitted,  
Bro. Zadus Turner, Jr., Chairman

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 1986**

God blessed the efforts of the individuals that have worked together to carry our youth program forward. We need to implement plans for a greater cooperative effort for continual improvement and refinement in the program that we now have.

There were 127 who attended our annual Fall Youth Retreat in November. We had good preaching resulting in salvation decisions as well as rededications.

A good meal and entertainment was enjoyed by the 140 people that attended the annual Valentine Banquet in February.

Our camp attendance exceeded last year's attendance. There were 116 that attended the Junior camp and 71 in attendance at the Teen week of camp. The total number attending camp was 187 in comparison to 158 for last year. This number can continue to grow if our young people are encouraged by their parents and pastors to PLAN and PREPARE to attend the camping program.

The Belk Church hosted our competitive activities for 1986. This competition supplied a host of youth who were successful at the state competition at Forestdale FWB Church and represented our state at the NYC at Tulsa, Oklahoma. The CE Board continues to offer assistance with information and organization to any church that is interested in becoming involved in or would like to investigate the Bible or Music and Art competition.

We are grateful for those who, with great dedication, worked either directly or indirectly, in the many different areas that support the activities carried on the Board of Christian Education.

The board wishes to ask your support in the following activities.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Revival Time and Conference on Evangelism<br>and Church Growth ..... | October 24-25, 1986  |
| Fall Youth Retreat .....   | November 14-15, 1986 |
| (This is to include a Walk-A-Thon for renovation of camp)            |                      |
| Valentine Banquet .....  | February, 1987       |
| Showing of film, "Sheffy" .....                                      | March, 1987          |
| Competition .....  | April 18, 1987       |
| Junior Youth Camp (tentative) .....                                  | June 28-July 3, 1987 |
| Teen Youth Camp (tentative) .....                                    | July 5-July 10, 1987 |

All our youth are encouraged to attend the National Youth Conference to be held in Birmingham in conjunction with the National Association of Free Will Baptist during July 19-23, 1987.



# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

| CHURCH           | PASTOR'S ADDRESS   | TELEPHONE | CLERK'S ADDRESS   |
|------------------|--|-----------|---|
| BEAVERTON        | Rev. R. C. Humphries<br>Route 1, Box 212<br>Vina, Ala. 35593     |           | Mrs. Joan Mosley<br>Beaverton, Ala. 35544                         |
| BELK             | Rev. Billy Wilson<br>P. O. Box 31<br>Belk, Ala. 35545            | 932-3144  | Rosa L. Atkins<br>P. O. Box 45<br>Belk, Ala. 35545                |
| COOPER           | Rev. Dennis Kizzire<br>Route 1<br>Detroit, Ala. 35552            | 921-2440  | Mrs. Lena Mae Rye<br>Route 6, Box 72-B<br>Hamilton, Ala. 35570    |
| DAVIS CHAPEL     | Rev. W. M. Nairmore<br>Route 1, Box 165<br>Bankston, Ala. 35542  | 689-4219  | Mrs. Louise Cannon<br>Route 1, Box 300<br>Berry, Ala. 35546       |
| DECATUR          | Rev. Milton Gann<br>809 Westwood Dr., SW<br>Decatur, Ala. 35601  | 353-5822  | Mrs. Betty Goode<br>711 Barclift St.<br>Hartselle, Ala. 35640     |
| DEPRIEST CHAPEL  | Rev. Fred Graham<br>P. O. Box 435<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592          | 695-9631  | Mr. Joe M. Easter<br>Route 3<br>Amory, Miss. 38821                |
| FREE WILL CHAPEL | Rev. Jerry Smith<br>Route 2, Box 54<br>Sulligent, Ala. 35586     | 695-6119  | Mrs. Dorothy Gideon<br>P. O. Box 101<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592        |
| FRIENDSHIP       | Rev. James C. Newell<br>Route 1, Box 109<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592   | 695-6101  | Mrs. Lura Moore<br>Route 2, Box 481<br>Millport, Ala. 35576       |
| LIBERTY          | Rev. James Doherty<br>Route 2<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592              | 695-9406  | Mr. Steve Butler<br>Route 2, Box 74-P-1<br>Fayette, Ala. 35555    |
| LOVE JOY         | Rev. Donald Taggart<br>Route 1, Box 158<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592    | 695-7546  | Mrs. Linda Barnes<br>Route 1, Box 370<br>Guin, Ala. 35563         |
| MT. HARMONY      | Rev. L. B. Nix<br>P. O. Box 277<br>Sulligent, Ala. 35586         | 695-9840  | Mr. Erbie Robertson<br>Route 3, Box 407<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592     |
| MT. PLEASANT     | Rev. Lloyd Vail<br>P. O. Box 535<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592           | 695-9583  | Mrs. Theresa Allen<br>Route 2, Box 231-A<br>Sulligent, Ala. 35586 |
| MT. WILLING      | Rev. Charles Fowler<br>Route 5, Box 194<br>Fayette, Ala. 35555   | 932-6589  | Mrs. Audra Flynn<br>Rt. 1, Box 237<br>Guin, Ala. 35563            |
| PINEY GROVE      | Rev. Dickie Dees<br>P. O. Box 888<br>Sulligent, Ala. 35586       | 698-9664  | Mrs. Jackie Atkinson<br>P. O. Box 563<br>Winfield, Ala. 35594     |
| SPRINGFIELD      | Rev. M. H. Hollis<br>P. O. Box 183<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592         | 695-7736  | Mr. Roy Ashby<br>Route 1, Box 221<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592           |
| SULLIGENT        | Rev. Edward Puckett<br>Route 1, Box 45A<br>Sulligent, Ala. 35586 | 698-8177  | Mrs. Kitty L. Taylor<br>Route 1, Box 54<br>Sulligent, Ala. 35586  |
| TAYLOR SPRINGS   | Rev. C. C. Berryhill<br>Greenwood Springs,<br>Miss. 38848        | 256-8225  | Mrs. Vickey Egger<br>Route 3, Box 104<br>Sulligent, Ala. 35586    |
| TUSCALOOSA       | Rev. Freddy Beem<br>501-41st Street<br>Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35404    | 758-5047  | Mr. A. D. Guy<br>501-41st Ave. E<br>Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35404        |
| UNION CHAPEL     | Rev. Ronald Scott<br>Route 2<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592               | 695-6693  | Mr. James E. Maddox<br>Route 2, Box 172<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592     |
| VERNON           | Rev. David Hayes<br>P. O. Box 1211<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592         | 695-9730  | Miss Elwanda Oakes<br>P. O. Box 351<br>Vernon, Ala. 35592         |

| Members Received | Members Deceased | Total Members | Number In Sunday School | Number In C.T.S. | Number In Ladies Aux | Ordained Ministers |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 8                | 1                | 50            | 40                      | 0                | 0                    | 2                  |
| 3                | 0                | 135           | 110                     | 60               | 20                   | 1                  |
| 15               | 3                | 195           | 115                     | 81               | 24                   | 1                  |
| 0                | 2                | 78            | 15                      | 0                | 0                    | 0                  |
| 11               | 1                | 173           | 85                      | 56               | 16                   | 1                  |
| 4                | 2                | 73            | 70                      | 0                | 0                    | 1                  |
| 13               | 0                | 182           | 126                     | 75               | 16                   | 1                  |
| 0                | 0                | 48            | 18                      | 0                | 0                    | 1                  |
| 5                | 4                | 242           | 102                     | 70               | 18                   | 1                  |
| 1                | 0                | 83            | 75                      | 0                | 15                   | 2                  |
| 5                | 1                | 126           | 60                      | 40               | 0                    | 1                  |
| 1                | 1                | 88            | 52                      | 0                | 0                    | 1                  |
| 2                | 6                | 126           |                         | 0                | 0                    | 2                  |
| 16               | 3                | 186           | 90                      | 70               | 12                   | 1                  |
| 6                | 3                | 170           | 100                     | 75               | 7                    | 1                  |
| 13               | 5                | 273           | 226                     | 75               | 0                    | 2                  |
| 0                | 0                | 50            | 40                      | 0                | 0                    | 1                  |
| 9                | 1                | 126           | 98                      | 0                | 12                   | 1                  |
| 0                | 1                | 75            | 50                      | 0                | 0                    | 3                  |
| 0                | 2                | 287           | 130                     | 100              | 21                   | 3                  |

FINANCIAL REPORT 1985/86 YEAR

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of Sept. 30, 1985..... | \$ 2,542.59 |
| Rec'd.....                        | 8,116.47    |

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR..... | \$10,659.06 |
| Expenditures.....         | 8,189.23    |

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance On Hand Sept. 30, 1986..... | \$ 2,469.83 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

INCOME STATEMENT:

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Mt. Harmony                       | \$ 275.00 |
| Belk.....                         | 557.37    |
| Free Will Chapel.....             | 521.77    |
| First-Vernon.....                 | 731.75    |
| Cooper.....                       | 95.20     |
| Insurance Reimbursement.....      | 60.00     |
| Thanksgiving.....                 | 126.92    |
| Valentine Banquet.....            | 334.00    |
| CTS Fees.....                     | 200.00    |
| Macedonia.....                    | 50.00     |
| First-Tuscaloosa.....             | 25.00     |
| Retreat-Concession.....           | 152.24    |
| Evangelism Conference.....        | 200.00    |
| Youth Camp Fees & Concession..... | 4,787.22  |

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| TOTAL..... | \$8,116.47 |
|------------|------------|

EXPENDITURES:

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Youth Camps Jr. & Sr.....             | \$3,662.42 |
| Speakers, camp retreat & banquet..... | 675.00     |
| Film rentals.....                     | \$ 488.69  |
| Heater for sterilizer at camp.....    | 208.65     |
| 25% to N.W.A.FWB Camp.....            | 855.49     |
| Camp Rental (-heater).....            | 366.35     |
| Valentine Banquet.....                | 359.74     |
| Postage.....                          | 146.76     |
| Board Expense.....                    | 120.32     |
| CTS Judges.....                       | 105.00     |
| Competition Fees.....                 | 165.00     |
| Retreat.....                          | 440.30     |
| Randal House Publishing.....          | 161.25     |
| Dr. Wade.....                         | 30.00      |
| Insurance.....                        | 404.26     |

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| TOTAL..... | \$8,189.23 |
|------------|------------|

Monies to N.W.A.FWB Camp Board includes a one time gift of \$500.00, to be applied toward camp debt payment.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dennis F. Kizzire, Chairman  
Rev. David Hayes, Treasurer  
Rev. Jerry Smith  
Rev. Don Taggart  
Rev. Billy Wilson

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### NORTHWEST ALABAMA FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP SEPTEMBER 10, 1985 - SEPTEMBER 18, 1986

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD.....\$ 1,722.73

#### Receipts:

##### Gifts From Associations:

Progressive.....\$2,920.44

Pleasant Grove.....\$ 323.68

Fayette.....2,269.86

Townley.....140.50

Jasper.....186.40

Jasper.....\$2,685.46

Winfield.....\$ 797.00

Mt. Olive.....1,100.00

Brilliant.....303.46

Ambers Aldridge.....10.00

Free Waters.....100.00

Union Hill.....200.00

Pocahontas.....175.00

Vernon.....\$3,182.39

Sulligent.....1,989.45

Piney Grove.....195.00

Vernon C.E. Brd.....933.94

Eastside.....64.00

Total Amount of Gifts.....\$8,788.29

##### Rent:

Guin Church.....\$ 200.00

Pleasant Grove Church 25.00

Jasper C.E. Brd.....694.50

Progressive Camps....400.00

Vernon C.E. Board....366.35

Total Amount of Rent Rec'd.....\$1,685.85

Unidentified Deposit..\$ 28.16

Refund from Ins. Co....7.12

Total of Misc. Income.....\$ 35.28

Total Amount of Receipts.....\$10,509.42

Total to be Accounted For.....\$12,232.15

Expenditures:

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Water .....  | \$ 379.84          |
| Power Bills.....                                   | 1,966.31           |
| Phone.....   | 587.14             |
| Reimbursed to Piney Grove Church<br>for Calls..... | 8.54               |
| Pool Upkeep.....                                   | 916.39             |
| Gift to Bro. Mathews.....                          | 100.00             |
| Piano.....   | 288.90             |
| Office Supplies.....                               | 6.35               |
| Pest Control.....                                  | 55.00              |
| Winfield Hospital- Aggee Treatment                 | 100.25             |
| Repairs.....                                       | 243.45             |
| Insurance.....                                     | 1,904.00           |
| Payment on Loan.....                               | 4,500.00           |
| Total Expenditures.....                            | <u>\$11,056.17</u> |
| Balance.....                                       | \$ 1,175.98        |

Liabilities:

Loan at Citizens Bank of Winfield..... \$ 3,854.67 (10.75%)  
The expense of the camp goes from around \$120.00 per month to \$1,250.00 per month when the camps are in session. This is just in the utilities.

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL REPORT

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Balance on hand 10-19-85.....                        | \$ 852.81       |
| Offering Received at Association.....                | 188.93          |
| (\$68.68 for Bible College and \$120.35 for speaker) |                 |
| Minute Funds Received.....                           | 1,390.00        |
| Transferred from Savings Account.....                | <u>1,946.85</u> |
| Total to Account For.....                            | \$4,378.59      |

Expenditures:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Rev. Edward Puckett (moderator) .....     | \$ 50.00          |
| Rev. M. H. Hollis (asst. moderator) ..... | 25.00             |
| Dr. Johnny Sexton (guest speaker).....    | 200.00            |
| F.W.B. Bible College.....                 | 68.58             |
| Alabama State Association Dues.....       | 420.00            |
| Raphael Yerby (clerk).....                | 75.00             |
| Postage.....                              | 33.39             |
| Lamar Leader (printing minutes) .....     | 481.50            |
| Alabama State Association.....            | 2,000.00          |
| (for 1987 National Association expenses)  |                   |
| Total Expenditures.....                   | <u>\$3,353.47</u> |
| Balance on hand 10-18-86.....             | \$1,025.12        |

Respectfully submitted,  
Raphael Yerby, treasurer



**NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS**

Rev. M. H. Hollis, P. O. Box 183, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. T. C. Barnes, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
Rev. W. D. Glasgow, Route 3, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. Delmus Miller, Winfield, Alabama 35594  
Rev. Fred Graham, P. O. Box 435, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. Edward Puckett, Route 1, Box 45A, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
Rev. James C. Newell, Route 1, Box 109, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. Herman Yielding, Route 1, Beaverton, Alabama 35544  
Rev. Dennis Kizzire, Route 1, Detroit, Alabama 35552  
Rev. Don Taggart, Route 1, Box 158, Vernon, Alabama 33592  
Rev. Norman G. Berryhill, Route 1, Guin Alabama 35563  
Rev. Lloyd W. Vail, P. O. Box 535, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. Lloyd George, Route 1, Box 246, Caledonia, Mississippi 39740  
Rev. Billy Wilson, P. O. Box 31, Belk, Alabama 35545  
Rev. Jerry Smith, Route 2, Box 54A, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
Rev. Jerry Montgomery, Route 3, Box 107, Northport, Alabama 35476  
Rev. Dickie Dees, P. O. Box 888, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
Rev. L. B. Nix, P. O. Box 277, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
Rev. Charles Fowler, Route 5, Box 194, Fayette, Alabama 35555  
Rev. Jim Martin, Route 2, Box 169A, Guin, Alabama 35563  
Rev. Milton Gann, 809 Westwood Dr. S.W., Decatur, Alabama 35601  
Rev. Jim Doherty, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. Freddy Beem, 501 - 41st Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404  
Rev. David Hayes, P. O. Box 1211, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. R. C. Humphries, Route 1, Box 212, Vina, Alabama 35593  
Rev. Ronald A. Scott, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Rev. Jeffery Cole, P. O. Box 132, Guin, Alabama 35563

**List of Deacons**

BEAVERTON - Bros. Bobby Dykes and Russel Cole  
BELK - Bros. Grady Newman, Raphael Yerby, Dalton Gilpin and Mackey Watkins  
COOPER - Bros. Burley Finch, Gordie Rye, Tony Clark and Hershel Rye  
DAVIS CHAPEL - None  
DECATUR - Bro. Paul Jones  
DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Bros. Kelly Easter, Joe Mack Easter, J. C. Cantrell, Gene Wise and Phillip Wise.  
FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bros. Edsel Gideon, Daniel Franks, L. D. Hall, Tommy Otts, and Jerry Mays  
FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Bros. Bobby Joe Black, Lennie R. Dubose, Wayne Dubose, Jack Boman, Roy Guyton, Wayne Sorrells, and Willie Gene Perkins

LOVE JOY - Bros. Coy Robertson, Guary Taylor, Lloyd Carter and Clayton Barnes.

MT. HARMONY - Bros. Olen Wheeler, Odis Robertson, Oveat Graham, Erbie Robertson, L. C. Steedley, and Frankie Beasley

MT. PLEASANT - None

MT. WILLING - Bros. Elzie Guin, Earl McDonald, Emmit Lee, Obie Haney and Arlie Roberts

PINEY GROVE - Bros. J. M. Chaffin, Tommie Robertson, and Danny Atkinson

SPRINGFIELD - Bros. Dewey Jordan, Haley Wright, Tommie Rushing, Paul Jordan, Aubrey Hall, Larry Williams, and Roy Ashby

SULLIGENT - Bros. John Q. Boyett, Hezzie Harrison, Richard Mansel, Earnest Northington, Charles Crosby, and Ray Birmingham,

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bro. Stanley Cooper

TUSCALOOSA - Bros. Wester Fulgham, Jr., Denny Ray Johnson, Edward L. McCool, Donald Tilly, Revis Guy, Jessie Overton, and Arthur Johnson

UNION CHAPEL - Bros. James E. Maddox, Don Freeman, Jessie Yerby, and Benny Hardy

VERNON - Bros. Pascal Yerby, Paul Shelnut, Ted Collins, Titus Barnes, Edgar Turner, Derrell Wheeler, Albert Christian, Wayne Steadman and Eris Wilson

**NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS**

Rev. J. M. Springfield, Rev. W. B. Taylor, Rev. W. R. Turman, Rev. Tom Butler, Rev. J. R. Robertson, Rev. M. D. McGee, Rev. J. R. Baker, Rev. W. D. Crawley, Rev. A. J. Brown, Rev. S. M. Perkins, Rev. T. G. Harrison, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Rev. J. W. Porter, Rev. T. M. Lollar, Rev. C. A. Chaffin, Rev. J. A. Isbell, Rev. G. B. Taylor, Rev. A. White, Rev. E. A. Palmer, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. T. J. Adair, Rev. J. Barnes, Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. B. J. Tittle, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Rev. E.W. Graves, Rev. S. F. Lee, Rev. W. H. Clearman, Rev. Roy H. Barnes, and Rev. Frank Collins.

**NAMES OF DECEASED DEACONS**

Brothers L. A. Crowder, S. Y. Shelton, J. H. Cole, Lee Mixon, J. S. Crossley, J. D. Shelnut, Earnest Robertson, D. L. Markham, Joe L. McNease, Johnny Williams, Johnny Collins, Dewitt Williams, J. G. Adair, Cullen Collins, John D. Moore, Sr., R. D. Franks, Hoytt Chaffin, Dempsey Langley, S. L. Cash, C. V. Hollis, M. E. Hollis, Raymond Gray, Arnold Hester, H. E. McDonald, Henry Harrison, Henry Perkins, Roy Gilreath, Jack McDonald, Belton Nelson, Clarence Birmingham, Carlos Bradford, Charlie Elliott, Emmit Shelnut, Junie Harper, Lloyd Turner, Johnny Pike, Jeff McDonald, Carlos Roberts, Reddin Mixon and David Barton.

### CONSTITUTION

1. This association shall be known as the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama being composed of ministers, deacons and delegates from the different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come before the association. Each church being entitled to three delegates for the first 50 members and one additional delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, in addition to ministers and deacons.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory council having no authority over the internal affairs of the church unless they depart from the Treaties of Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptists. In this event it will be investigated by the Credential Committee and their findings will be reported to the association for their action. This association shall have authority over all ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, etc. In case any minister in this association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the Treaties of Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptists the same shall be dealt with by the association as it may deem proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

3. When a church desires one of its members should be licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel, it will be the responsibility of the local church to license the member and later request the association to ordain the member. The examination for license should refer to piety, doctrine, and convictions respecting the work of the ministry and reputation for character and ability of the candidate. The examination or ordination should include all that is required for license and also the application for ministers approved by the National Association of Free Will Baptist. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who has more than one living wife, or whose wife has more than one living husband. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who uses tobacco in any form.

3. (A) When a church recommends a candidate for ordination as a preacher by the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists, they will submit the following information in writing to the Credential Committee, at least one (1) month in advance of the annual association meeting: the name of the candidate, address of the candidate, telephone number of the candidate, present employment, length of membership at the church, offices held in the church, marital status of the candidate, places of ministry by the candidate for the past twelve months.

This recommendation must be the result of a regular conference of the church of which the candidate is a member.



3. (B) Any ordained preacher that desires to become a member of this association must submit a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member, along with a letter of recommendation from the association from which he is coming. This is to be done at least one (1) month in advance of a regular meeting of the association. This information is to be submitted in writing to the moderator of the association or to the chairman of the Credential Committee.

4. All questions of doctrine and general interest shall be settled by a majority vote of the association and the decision shall be final.

5. The officers of the association shall be moderator, assistant moderator and clerk-treasurer, who shall be chosen at the annual session by majority vote of the delegates present. The officers shall be chosen at the close of each annual session with the outgoing clerk being responsible for the printing and distribution of the minutes. The clerk shall have the authority to secure any necessary assistance he needs, at his own expense.

6. The association shall meet semi-annually, with meetings being on Saturday before the third Sunday in March and Saturday before the third Sunday in October each year. The meeting in March will be a worship and fellowship meeting with a time set aside to handle any necessary business and the October meeting being our annual business meeting of the association and shall not adjourn finally until all business matters be transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usage.

8. We agree as churches of this association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions such as Temperance cause, Sunday School, Missionary Work, etc.

9. (A) No member of this association shall be eligible to serve as moderator for more than two consecutive sessions unless no other member be competent to serve in that capacity.

9. (B) No member of this association shall be eligible to serve as moderator of the association until he has been a member of the association for at least two (2) years.

10. Any member of this association who shall be guilty of circulating reports of any nature or aiding in circulating any report that is

untrue on a brother minister, that is circulated to injure his moral reputation and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by the association. Any minister of this association who is known to be guilty of using intoxicating spirits by drinking as a beverage which is calculated to destroy his influence and usefulness the same shall be dealt with by the association as it may deem proper, according to the teaching of the Bible.

11. The association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all delegates present and any church or delegate failing or refusing to do so is and shall be considered to be a party to the enforcement of the same.

12. The moderator shall receive \$50.00, the assistant moderator \$25.00, and the clerk \$75.00 for their services.

13. The clerk shall superintend the printing of the minutes after each annual session of the association and shall have them out to the churches within 90 days after the associational meeting.

14. The moderator shall appoint a Credential Committee, consisting of five (5) persons with the senior member in point of service being replaced each year. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to examine all members who become a part of this body either by ordination or by letter. Any item of business pertaining to ministers or the conduct of ministers must originate with this committee. This committee shall consist of three (3) ministers and two (2) laymen.

15. (A) The association shall have a General Board, which shall consist of the moderator, assistant moderator, and clerk along with one person from each church. Each person from the local church shall serve two years, with one-half being elected each year as specified in the printed minutes. When this association is not in session this board shall have power to act as a body, but such action must be reported to the association.

15. (B) The association shall have an Executive Committee, consisting of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and four (4) members from the General Board.

### BY-LAWS

1. The association shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the last session.

2. The moderator shall appoint a Committee on Committees, whose duty is to appoint various committees at each session. Each committee is to consist of from 3 to 5 members.

3. The moderator calls for the report of the Digest Committee and a roll call of the delegates. After a reading of the report, the delegates are enrolled by the clerk, at the discretion of the body.

4. The Credential Committee shall recommend the issuance, or rejection of a card of good standing for a ministers. If a minister misses one association meeting, unless providentially hindered, he will not be given a card of good standing. The final decision to be made by the body. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to examine all ministers who become a part of this body, either by ordination or by letter. The Credential Committee, in a special called session, shall have the authority to grant letters to ministers leaving our association, provided they are a member of a church in our association, reporting their action to the annual association meeting.

5. The moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in case of a tie and then he shall cast the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question, after others have spoken, provided he shall appoint someone to the chair while he is speaking.

6. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the moderator and after recognition by the moderator shall proceed.

7. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.

8. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without the permission of the moderator nor more than five minutes.

9. No person shall laugh or talk during discussion.

10. No delegate shall absent himself from the association without the permission of the moderator.

11. (A) All ordination of ministers shall be done at the association while in regular annual session, by the Ordaining Council.

11. (B) The General Board of the association shall have authority to

authorize the Credential Committee to ordain ministers, between sessions of the association, who have been licensed by a local church and who have been accepted as pastor in a Free Will Baptist Church before his one year of license has expired.

12. No person shall be ordained by his association as a preacher unless he has been licensed by his local church for at least one year, or recommended for ordination by the Credential Committee.

13. The Vernon Free Will Baptist Associational year shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August each year and hold the annual meeting on Saturday before the third Sunday in October of each year.

14. The Executive Committee shall secure a speaker for the 11:00 o'clock message and plan the program for each annual session of the association.

15. The Youth Camp Committee shall meet within Sixty (60) days after the October associational meeting to select a camp director and a treasurer of the youth camp and make plans for the summer camps. All pastors of the Vernon Association shall be on the youth camp committee and will make up the committee.



**ARTICLES OF FAITH**

1. **The Bible.** The Scripture of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preservor, and Righteous Governor of the universe and in the Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified and is our present Savior and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided, for all the highest welfare of men.

6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.

7. **The Works of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life sufferings, death and resurrection effected all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the domination of sin, and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ all men become His elect.

10. **Freedom of Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. **Preseverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, having promise of eternal salvation.

13. **Gospel Ordinances.** BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water and the LORD'S SUPPER are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. FEET WASHING is an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." (I Cor. 16:2).

15. **The Lord's Day.** The devine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities and for personal communion with God.

16. **Resurrection, Judgement, and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but righteous into eternal life."

#### **BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

1. It is the duty of this board to promote the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association Youth Rally, and other related projects.

2. This board shall, along with the duly elected officers and the host pastor, plan the programs of the rallies each month.

3. The Board of Christian Education shall work with all churches in getting them involved in the Youth Rally work and other related projects.

4. The board shall act in advisory capacity to the elected officers of the Youth Rally.

5. The board shall consist of five (5) members, with the senior member in point of service being replaced each year.

6. The board shall be responsible each year for planning the District T-N-T-Rally in May.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR VERNON ASSOCIATION**

1. New Moderator takes over
2. Devotion
3. Call for Digest Committee report and roll call of delegates.
4. Seating of Delegates.
5. Call for petitionary letters
6. Appointment of Committee on Committees
7. Invite visiting brethren to seat with us.
8. Committees as follows: Credential, Digest, Appreciation, Sunday School and C.T.S., Finance, Deceased Members, Temperance, Board of Christian Education, Executive.
9. Call for General Board report.
10. Call for committee reports. (See committees)
11. Final report of General Board.
12. Delegates to State Association.
13. Corresponding delegates to other associations.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE**

1. Call to order.
2. Call for peace and fellowship
3. Opportunity for membership
4. Invite visiting brothers and sisters to seat.
5. Reading of previous minutes.
6. Unfinished business.
7. Appointment of committees.
8. Acknowledgements.
9. Committee reports.
10. New Business.
11. Adjournment.